

# Purdue – Ball State Joint EDA University Center



The Joint EDA Center is a partnership of the Purdue University Center for Regional Development and the Ball State Indiana Communities Institute. Created in 2016, the Joint Center is building on the unique assets of each the higher education institutions, resulting in a more expansive set of programs and resources to support the work of Economic Development Districts, Regional Planning Organizations, and local community/economic development entities across the state and beyond.

## Four Main Areas of Focus & Current Programs

### 1 Build & Sustain Vibrant Local & Regional Collaborations

The long-term vitality of regions in Indiana is dependent on the ability of communities and counties to work in partnership at the regional level in the pursuit of opportunities that build on their collective assets.

#### Current Programs

Rural Economic Development Initiative  
Rural Opportunity Zones Initiative  
Economic Resilience Recovery in the U.S. Great Lakes Region

### 2 Expand the Suite of Innovative Data Tools to Guide Planning

Complex issues impacting places and regions in Indiana (and beyond) require access to high quality data. Putting user-friendly data products in the hands of local and regional development organizations is an important ingredient for guiding their comprehensive economic development plans and strategies.

#### Current Programs

IARC Data Dashboard  
Rural Indiana Stats Online Site  
Dimensions of Poverty Story Map  
Community Asset Inventory

### 3 Connect Small Businesses to Key Regional Clusters

Pursuing efforts to better link small businesses, entrepreneurs and proprietors to the supply chain needs of larger firms in a region represents an effective way to grow jobs and increase household wealth.

#### Current Programs

Business Retention & Expansion  
Economic Gardening  
Remote Workforce Training  
Digital Ready Businesses

### 4 Explore the Talent Needs of Regional Clusters & EDDs

Businesses, industries and organizations are dependent on a labor force with the requisite education, training, skills and experiences to fill critical jobs. Thus, researching and informing Indiana regions of emerging talent needs of industries and regional planning organizations is of critical importance.

#### Current Programs

College Student Internship Program  
Regional Leadership Academy  
Talent Needs of Indiana's Highway & Construction Cluster  
The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Indiana's Manufacturing



For more information about the Purdue – Ball State Joint EDA University Center, contact:

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